THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOC) has a retail outlet on a site at Santacruz, Mumbai, opposite to Centaur Hotel since 1975. This site has been taken on lease from the Airports Authority of India by the IOC.

(c) to (e) The dealer of the retail outlet was the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI). The dealership was not transferred to M/s Batra Hospitalities Pvt. Ltd. to whom Centaur Hotel, Mumbai was transferred on disinvestment as it was not transferable as per the dealership agreement. Consequently, the dealership of the HCI was terminated on 27.9.2002. Not satisfied with the decision of the IOC, M/s Batra Hospitalities Pvt. Ltd. approached the City Civil Court, Mumbai. The matter is presently *sub-judice.*

Losses suffered by BRPL

*120. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL) has been running in loss;

(b) if so,the losses suffered by it during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(c) what has been the capacity utilisation of both the units *viz.*, refinery and petrochemicals during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken to improve the functioning of BRPL and wipe out losses?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) BRPL incurred losses during the financial years 2000-01 and 2001-02.

(b) Profit/(Loss) of the company during the last three years is given below:—

Financial Year	Profit/(loss) after tax (in Rs. crore)
1999-2000	32.24
2000-2001	(57.44)
2001-2002	(198.61)

NOTE: Bracket indicates loss.

The Company incurred loss during the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 in the Petrochemicals and Poleyster Staple Fibre (PSF) sectors due to high cost of raw material and lower product prices. During the year 2001-02, the Company incurred loss in the refinery sector also. The major reasons for loss in the refinery sector were freight and sales tax under recovery for the sale of decontrolled petroleum products and high cost of imported crude oil.

(c) The capacity utilization of the refinery and the petrochemical units during the last three years was as given below:—

Financial year	Actual (in metric tonnes per annum)			Capacity utilisation (per cent)		
	Refinery throughput	Petrochemical production		Refinery	Petrochemicals	
		(DMT)	(PSF)		(DMT)	(PSF)
1999-2000	19,05,851	24,960	19,531	81	55	65
2000-2001	14,87,562	18,692	15,128	63	42	50
2001-2002	14,75,071	6,684	6,924	63	15	23

DMT: Di-methyl Terephalate
PSF: Polyester Staple Fibre

(d) In order to improve the profitability of BRPL, following steps have been taken:—

(1) Government of India have given 50% excise duty relief on products produced and sold from BRPL with effect from 1.3.2002.

(2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), the holding company of BRPL, has taken responsibility of product evacuation of BRPL and sharing of technical expertise with BRPL for improvement of profitability.

(3) BRPL has taken in-house steps like optimization of product mix for maximum value addition, manpower optimization with suitable redeployment, for improving the physical and financial performance.